

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE BENEVOLENT

MEDICAL SOCIETY,

*(Instituted in the year 1787.)*

FOR THE RELIEF AND BENEFIT OF

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

OF

PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS AND APOTHECARIES,

IN THE COUNTY OF KENT.

CONFIRMED BY THE GENERAL MEETING,

JULY 10, 1799.

CANTERBURY,

PRINTED BY W. BRISTOW, ON THE PARADE,

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 INTRODUCTION.

AS many of the medical practitioners of the county of Kent have instituted a Society, and established a Fund, for the Relief and Benefit of Widows and Orphans of Physicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries, being or having been resident therein; the Society hopes that the Laws and Regulations, exhibited in the following pages, will not only meet the approbation of the members in general, as well as of those humane benefactors who have assisted the Society by their generous donations; but will likewise be found as effectual as circumstances can admit, in meliorating the melancholy situations to which the families of medical practitioners are too often reduced, not only by common calamities, but also by hazards peculiarly incidental to the profession.

The foundation of this Society having commenced in the year of our Lord 1787, and the sum of *Two Thousand Pounds*, in the 3 per Cents.

consolidated Bank Annuities, being *now* vested as a *capital fund*, arising from the donations and subscriptions since the date thereof, it has been judged proper to revise, new modify, and amend the Laws and Regulations of the Society.

W. VAUGHAN, President.

E. SCUDAMORE, Vice-President.

PRE-

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## PRELIMINARY LAWS.

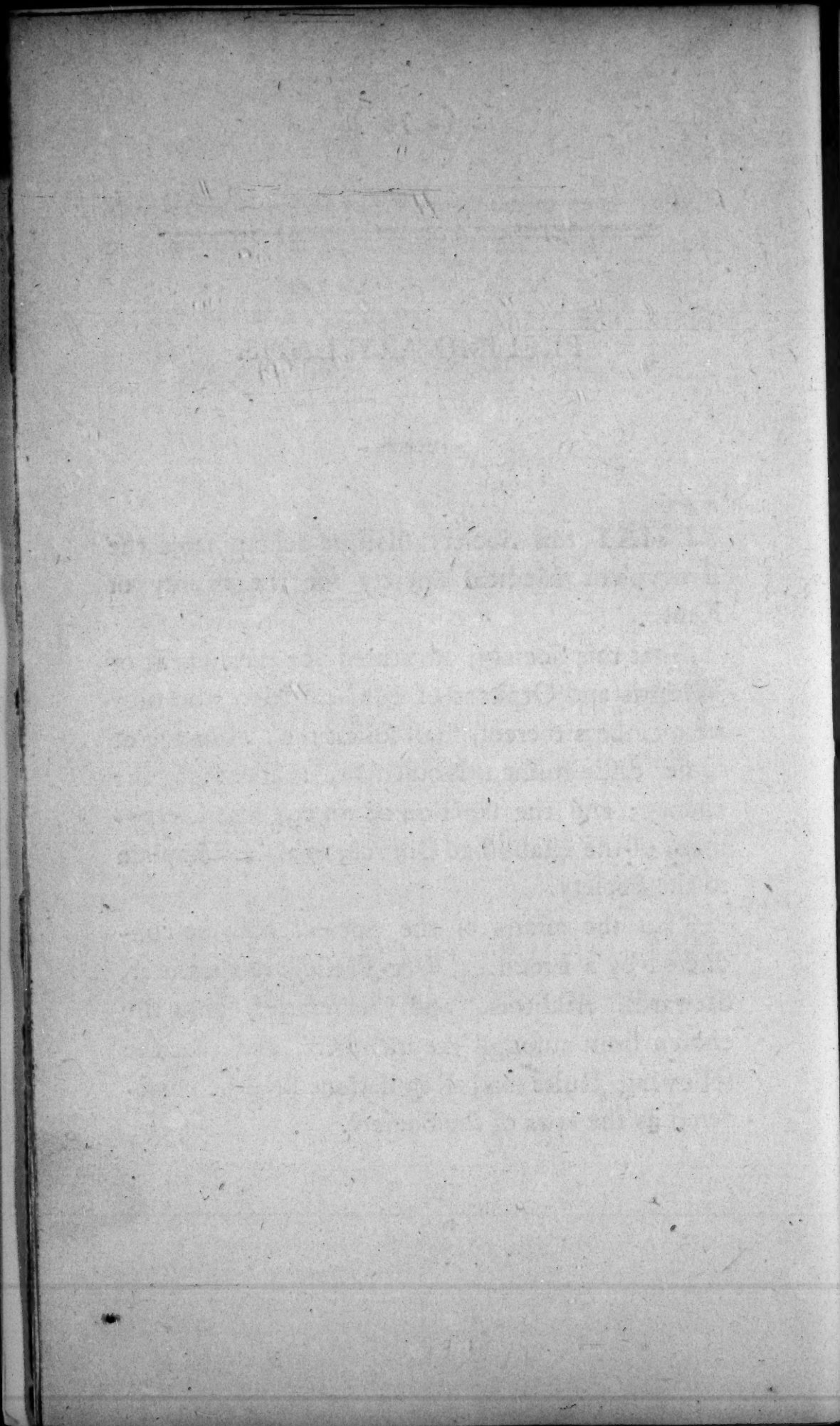
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**T**HAT this Society shall be denominated the Benevolent Medical Society for the county of Kent.

That this Society, instituted for the Benefit of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men who may be members thereof, shall solicit the Patronage of some distinguished Nobleman, resident in the county; and the sanction of an eminent Clergyman, of the established Church, to act as Chaplain to the Society.

That the affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Stewards, Auditors, and Secretaries, annually chosen from amongst the members, and that the following Rules and Regulations shall be considered as the laws of the Society.





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## SECTION I.

### QUALIFICATION AND ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

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#### ARTICLE I.

**T**HAT this Society shall consist of Physicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries, who reside and practise, or who, at the time of their being elected members, actually did reside and practise in the county of Kent.

2. That every gentleman of the Faculty, settled in Kent since July the 5th, 1799, and desirous of becoming a member of this Society, must be recommended by two members of the Society, as having been regularly educated a Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary. The recommendation may be given by the gentlemen verbally, or in the following written form:

*" We, whose names are hereunto subscribed,  
 " do, from our personal knowledge, re-  
 " commend A. B. (here insert his pro-  
 " fession and place of abode) as a gen-  
 " tleman proper to become a member of  
 " this Society."*

3. That

3. That any gentleman of the Faculty, recommended and qualified as above, shall be admitted and deemed a member of this Society, by paying an introductory sum of Ten Guineas, and the annual subscription of One Guinea, or such greater sum as he may think proper, by which he will be *immediately* entitled to the benefits of this Society. But such gentlemen as were admitted members of this Society prior to the 5th day of July 1799, are considered as standing under that part of Rule 3d, Article 3d of the Laws and Regulations printed in 1796, according to which they became members, viz. either by having paid an introductory sum of Seven Guineas, together with the annual subscription of One Guinea, by which they became intitled to immediate benefit; or by having paid the annual subscription only, in which latter case they are not entitled to benefit until they have been members seven years.

4. That if any member shall remove into any other county, and continue his subscription, notwithstanding he may have relinquished the practice of medicine, his widow and children shall be entitled to all the benefits of the Society.

7. That every member shall pay his subscription to the Steward of the District wherein he resides (who will give a receipt for the same) on or about



about the fifth day of July annually; the subscription so paid to be accounted as the subscription of the current year, the year of the Society commencing on the fifth day of July.

## SECTION II.

### DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS.

1. That no assistant Surgeon or Apothecary, who is hired or paid by any private practitioner, can be admitted a member of this society.
2. That any member who shall neglect or refuse to pay his subscription on or about the fifth day of July, or within six months after, on being applied to by the Steward of his District, shall forfeit his claim to the benefits of the Society, and be no longer considered as a member.
3. That any member of this Society who shall publicly advertise any medicine as a secret, either as to ingredients or mode of preparation, or who shall publicly advertise to cure any disease, shall be excluded from all the benefits of the Society.

## SECTION III.

### MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.

1. That a GENERAL MEETING of this Society shall be holden annually on the first Wednesday after the fifth day of July, at such place as shall have been appointed by the preceding General Meeting, except it should be in the week of the  
County

County Assizes, in which case the meeting may be holden on the said Wednesday fortnight. That at the General Meeting, and at all other Meetings, the President, Vice-President, or Steward of the District, or in their absence the senior member present shall take the chair; but no business shall be transacted at any General Meeting, unless seven members shall be present, and fourteen days previous notice shall have been given in the county newspapers, or by letter individually sent to each member. That at the said General Meeting, the minutes of the last General Meeting, and of all subsequent Meetings and Committees having been read, the accounts of the preceding year, as made up from the Treasurer's books, and examined by the Auditors, shall be laid before the Society, and signed by the members present; that all applications for relief shall be attended to, and all recommendations of new members confirmed or rejected, and instructions shall then be given to the Treasurer for the disposal of the receipts of the current year, and of any balance remaining in his hands.

2. That at the said General Meeting, the President, Vice President, and all other officers shall be elected for the ensuing year; and the Treasurer, Stewards, and Secretaries, who may go out of office, shall, if required, pay and deliver into  
the



the hands of their respective successors, the monies, books, and effects belonging to the Society.

3. That an ANNUAL MEETING shall be holden at Blackheath, on the third Tuesday in May, consisting of not less than five members, to receive applications, and consider of such propositions, or other matters, as may be necessary to be laid before the General Meeting; the minutes of the last Annual and General Meeting, and of all subsequent meetings being read, previous to any other business, except the nomination of a Chairman.

4. That on a vacancy happening in any office, place, or trust of the Society, or on any other emergency, the President, Vice-President, or Treasurer, may call a SPECIAL MEETING, to consist of not less than five members, by giving fourteen days' notice of the day appointed for such Special Meeting, and of the place where it is to be holden; and that the said officers, with the Secretaries, shall be, *ex officio*, members of all committees.

5. That at all meetings the names of the persons present, and the proceedings, shall be minuted down; and at some convenient time, as soon as may be after the said meetings, the proceedings shall be fairly entered in a book set apart for that purpose.

6. That all motions to be made at any meeting, shall be delivered to the Chairman in writing, and



read by him twice before any debate or decision shall take place thereon; and no member shall be allowed to speak more than twice on any motion, unless he first obtains leave from the Chairman for that purpose.

7. That all Elections shall be determined by the majority of members present; the Chairman to cast up the votes, and report the numbers.

8. That all questions which may arise at any meeting, shall be decided by a majority of votes, and in case of an equality of numbers, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

9. That no law of this Society shall be repealed or altered, but at a General Meeting; and that no meeting shall be considered as dissolved or adjourned, until the Secretary shall have read over the minutes of that meeting, and the Chairman have signed them before he quits the chair.

#### SECTION IV.

##### QUALIFICATIONS FOR RELIEF, AND MODE OF

##### APPLICATION AND PAYMENT.

1. That the widow or orphan of any Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, who, at the time of his death,

death, was a member of this Society, and entitled to the benefits thereof, shall, on application to the Secretary, (as hereafter specified) have their case considered at a General Meeting; and that every widow, so applying, shall receive a sum not less than 20l. with such further assistance as the meeting shall judge proper. And although the general intention of this Society be to relieve the widows and orphans of deceased members, yet if it should so happen that any member, through misfortune or infirmity, should be incapacitated from following or directing his profession, and should make application to the Society, it shall be lawful for the majority of members present at a General Meeting, to allow him such assistance as they shall deem requisite; or the Treasurer may relieve as specified hereafter.

2. That the widow of any member of this Society, duly qualified, may receive assistance from a General Meeting, for, or in part of making up an apprentice fee for a child, when such child shall have attained the age of fourteen years.

3. That no widow who receives any relief or annuity from the Society, shall continue to receive the same if she should marry again; but if, in that case, the husband should continue the annual subscription, she shall be again entitled to the benefits



of the Society on the decease of the said husband, and the children of her first husband only shall resume their claim to the same.

4. That all applications from widows desirous of receiving relief from this Society, must be made by letter to the Secretary of the District, in which letter it will be necessary to express their residence and age, and the name and relationship of the member through whom they claim the relief which they solicit, with certificates of marriage and of the births of children, signed by the Minister and Churchwardens of their respective parishes ; the said letters to be sent to the Secretary on or before the 30th day of April.

5. But as no exact mode of relief can be prescribed for all cases, if any members, widows, or orphans of members, shall be under peculiar circumstances of distress, the Secretary to whom the application may be made, shall inform the Steward of the District with the particulars of the case as stated to him, in order that the said Steward may enquire into the truth of the same, and report his opinion thereon to the Treasurer, who hereby has a discretionary power to grant such relief as he may think proper till the next General Meeting.

6. That all payments of money by the Treasurer shall be in consequence of an order of the  
General



General Meeting; (except in cases of urgent distress) and that a copy of such order, signed by the Secretary of the Meeting, shall be sufficient authority to the Treasurer for the payment thereof.

7. That all sums of money granted by the General Meeting shall be paid by the Treasurer to those who are authorised to receive the same in two half yearly payments—the first payment within twenty days after such sums shall have been granted, and the second payment within twenty days after the fifth day of January, in the ensuing year.

#### SECTION V.

##### CAPITAL FUND, AND TRUSTEES.

1. That as at the establishment of this Society in 1787, it was unanimously resolved that the sum of 1000*l. sterling*, arising from the annual subscriptions of the members, and other contributions, should be placed in the public funds, and vested in the names of Trustees; and as by subsequent resolutions of General Meetings it was determined to augment the above sum to 2000*l. stock*, in three per cent. consolidated annuities, which sum so vested should be deemed the CAPITAL STOCK of the Society, on no account to be diminished; the said 2000*l.* and the surplus of subscriptions, &c. have been accordingly vested in the names of four members

members appointed Trustees, and when and as often as the number of Trustees shall by death, resignation, or removal out of the county, be reduced to two, two new Trustees shall be elected by a majority of the members present at the next General Meeting, and the money thus vested be transferred to their joint names.

2. That all benefactions and legacies, together with the annual subscription of the members, and the interest of stock, shall at all times be added to the capital stock of the Society, unless a contrary disposal of them be directed by the benefactors or testators, or by a General Meeting, a sufficient sum being left in the hands of the Treasurer to satisfy any emergency.

## SECTION VI.

### TREASURER AND STEWARDS.

That the Stewards resident in different parts of the county, shall collect the annual subscriptions from the members of their several districts, and transmit the same to the Treasurer by the earliest opportunities; that they shall make regular entries of the names and residence of such members and benefactors, as well as of the sums received from each, and the time of payment, in order that reference may in any case be made thereto; that on  
receiving



receiving notice from the Secretary of their district of any application for immediate relief, they shall enquire into the circumstances of the case, and report to the Treasurer the result of their enquiries; that they shall give notice to the Secretaries for the information of the Treasurer, or of the General Meeting, of the death, removal, or resignation of any officer, member, or benefactor, in their districts; that they shall provide for the General or other Meetings, to be holden in the said districts, and attend to all other circumstances relative to the Society, which may happen therein.

## SECTION VII.

### SECRETARIES.

That the Secretaries, the one being resident in the neighbourhood of the Treasurer, and the other in the opposite division of the county, shall, by themselves or deputies, attend all meetings held in their respective divisions, and enter into proper books the minutes of the transactions of each meeting; that they shall give notice of the General, Annual, and other meetings occurring in their divisions, and inform the said meetings of all applications for relief, or of such other matters as may have been transmitted to them for that purpose; that they shall acquaint the several Stewards of any  
circum-



circumstances of peculiar distress made known to them; and whenever any sum or sums of money are to be paid by the Treasurer to persons authorised to receive the same, the Secretary residing with the Treasurer shall inform them when and where they may receive such payments; the Secretary of any meeting shall also, if required, inform any member who could not attend the said meeting, of any minute, order, or resolution made thereat; and the Secretary residing with the Treasurer shall prepare the annual report, and transmit the same to the respective Stewards for circulation.

#### SECTION VIII.

##### AUDITORS.

That the Auditors shall be elected from the members resident in the neighbourhood of the Treasurer, that they shall audit the accounts of the Society as made up from the Treasurer's books, previous to the Annual Meeting, and inspect the Annual Reports, as prepared by the Secretary.

#### SECTION IX.

##### GENERAL RULES.

1. That the laws of the Society shall be printed, and that such new laws and regulations as may be made at any future General Meetings, shall be added

added to the list of officers, members, and benefactors, which, with a statement of the accounts, shall be printed, and circulated soon after the General Meeting of each year, under the title of the Annual Report.

2. That all expences incidental at the different meetings of the Society, shall be defrayed by the gentlemen present ; and that every member residing within ten miles of the place at which the General Meeting is held, and not attending the said meeting, shall pay, to the Steward of the District, the sum of Five Shillings for the dinner.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

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TO such as are inclined to become Benefactors by will, the following form is recommended as proper :

*" I give and bequeath unto the President, Vice-  
" President, Treasurer, and Members of the Society  
" for the relief of the Widows and Orphans of Me-  
" dical Men in the County of Kent, in trust, the sum  
" of . . . . .  
" which I desire may be paid out of my personal  
" estate, and applied to the purposes of the said  
" Society."*

N. B. Devises of land, or money charged on land, or to be laid out in land, are void by the statute of Mortmain.



\* \* \* Annual Subscriptions or Benefactions, from persons not of the Medical profession, will be thankfully received by the Treasurer or Stewards, or at either of the following Banks:

Messrs. GIPPS and Co. *Canterbury.*

—— BATSON and Co. *London.*

—— RANSOM and Co. *London.*

—— FECTOR and Co. *Dover.*


The subscriptions commence from the 5th of July in every year.

*F I N I S.*

Annual Subscriptions or Contributions  
from part or all of the Medical profession will  
be gratefully received by the Trustees or Sec-  
retary, or at either of the following Banks:

- Messrs. Gurney and Co. Cashiers.
- Barrow and Co. Cashiers.
- Barrow and Co. Cashiers.
- Barrow and Co. Cashiers.

The Medical Commission for the year of  
1851 is now open.

 These Blank Leaves are  
intended for the insertion of any  
altered or new Laws, which  
may, from time to time, be added  
to the Annual Report.



These Blank Leaves are

intended for the insertion of any

abstract or new Laws, which

may from time to time, be added

to the Statute-Book.

